



Crosslake Area Historical Society

PO Box 134
35404 County Rd 3
Crosslake, MN 56442

Fall 2019 Newsletter

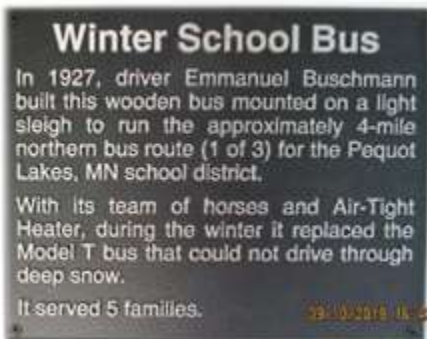
www.crosslakehistoricalsociety.org

218-692-5400



Village School Bus Sleigh

The photo above was submitted by the family of Alma (Buschmann) Christensen. She is pictured in the center of the photo. Her father, Emmanuel Buschmann built the bus that is exhibited in our Historic Log Village. Alma was one of the students who rode the bus. The family reached out to the Historical Society and asked permission to install a permanent plaque. That plaque, pictured, has



been mounted. Alma, now 98 years old, lives in Pine River. She is happy to talk with people about her memories of the area. Her mind is still sharp, although her eyesight &

worn-out hip keep her mostly at home in her assisted living facility. She is a natural historian and teacher who loves to share her wide range of knowledge. Alma has been a featured speaker at our Village twice. She has been called 'Our Lady of the Woods' because of her vast knowledge of wild plants and their many uses.



Check us out on Facebook. We have a new volunteer who is experienced and adept with social media. She is maintaining our Facebook page. We are very fortunate to have her helping us with this! Thank you, **Deb Peterson!**

Historic Presentation - July 24

Julie Jo Larson's topic was "*Lost Cemeteries of Crow Wing County.*" With today's fascination of the study of our ancestry, this program was fitting. Julie and her group, the MsStorians have visited and researched many local cemeteries including our Crosslake Pinewood Cemetery. She indicated that the stories of families can be found through cemetery records. Plagues, epidemics and family illnesses can be traced and found. She told the story of Helen McArthur's disappearance, murder and the discovery of her body in 1872 in the town of Crow Wing, south of Brainerd. Although their guilt was never proven, two half-breeds were lynched for the crime. Helen's body has been moved twice and its whereabouts is now unknown.

Julie Jo visited with Leo & Dodo Fraser following the presentation. They shared a sensitive family story with her that answered a Pinewood Cemetery question.





Visitor Center Grand Opening Saturday, July 6

The 1920s cabin, now known as the Visitors Center, was moved to the Historic Log Village in May of 2017. The building was donated to the Crosslake Area Historical Society by the family of David Claypool when they purchased property where the former Kent's Atwater Resort was located on Island Lake. Extensive renovation has been done to prepare the cabin to be used as a gift shop and office. The project so far has taken more than two years.



Jeanne (Kent) Thull was on hand to share stories and reminisce about summer fun at her family's resort before it was sold.

Future plans include a working kitchen and restroom for volunteers. The project will be completed when water and sewer are connections are done. This is a complicated project because of both the city of Crosslake and the federal Corps of Engineers rules and regulations with great expense.

Historic Presentation June 18

Dr Susan Krook, PhD enlightened a large audience attending the program in the Livery on Tuesday, June 18 with information pertaining to the lives of Native Americans living in the area from the 1600s. She is an anthropology instructor at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN. She said that the Native Americans in Crosslake and the surrounding area thrived due to the rich resources that existed in the region at that time.



Joan Callender, former board member arranged for Dr Krook to speak to our group. Pictured is our board president, Mary Kate Williams, Dr Krook and Joan Callender. The program was very well received, and Dr Krook indicated she'd be interested in a return visit!

We're working on our WEBSITE!!

There have been issues with our website for some time and it crashed in July! Crosslake Communications had warned us that our service was in jeopardy because of antiquated software. However,



with the help of some experts including our board member Steve Roe, it's up and running again, although it must be totally reconstructed. There are many browsers, languages and code maintenance tools which add to the confusion. Check periodically to see how it's progressing.

WWW.crosslakehistoricalsociety.org



Village Family Festival Saturday, August 17

A fun day for families was planned by our event committee. It included lots of games for the young, plus some pioneer demonstrations plus live music preformed by The Bigfoot Band led by Jerry Erickson. Joining him on the



porch of the Town Hall was Dave Swanson on bass, Sarah Carey, vocals and guitar with Brett

Hanson on drums. Megan and Grace Loukota demonstrated the art of spinning wool. Sydney Balmer brought her horse "Sky" who walked through the Village visiting with guests. Sky was very well-behaved!! The Village buildings were open for tours led by costumed volunteers. Food was available from Jr's No. 19 BBQ.



Ginger and Marsha test their skills at the marble game.



Cider and Candlelight Tour Saturday, September 28

The Celebrate Crosslake Day was great!! Lots and lots of visitors came to our little town to sample chili and explore the many



other events being held all over town. Mary gave about 150 chili samples to Village visitors. Later that evening volunteers gathered to clean, fill and distribute lanterns throughout the Village. Costumed volunteers greeted visitors to each building. Root beer, candy corn and peanuts were served in the Tavern and cider and treats were served in the Blacksmith Shop. Square dancers entertained in the Livery! Marsha was MC for *Open Mic* on the porch where she encouraged visitors to tell a story or a joke or sing a song.



Deb and Steve Dahlke brought two tractors to give wagon rides to an estimated crowd of over 700! Dave Peterson of Pine Peaks Event Center graciously lent us one of his wagons to add to ours, so we'd be able to provide two wagon rides! This was a wonderful idea especially because of the numbers in attendance. The weather for the evening event was glorious so visitors were not hampered by rain or cold. A comment was made by one guest that the evening was "magical." This event has always been a favorite for many who return every year. We thank the countless volunteers who made this event possible!!



CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

It's official! Many volunteers gathered for several workdays to prepare the Village for the winter months. On Saturday, October 5, Mary Kate, Dodo, Mary & Denny, Kathy, Marsha, Steve, Linda, Priscilla and Howard worked on the buildings to pack away artifacts and articles to protect them from the various rodents that may enter the buildings during the winter months. Any item that might be attractive to these visitors is stored in plastic totes. The job was finished quickly and the volunteers gathered in the General Store for coffee and cake. The shutters on the Tourist Cabin and the Saloon were attached by Tom on another day.



Tom White and his group of volunteers met at the Village on October 7 & 8 and completed the application of 50 gallons of preservative on six of the historic buildings: The School House, Ostlund Homestead, the Loggers Camp, the Saloon, Tourist Cabin and General Store. The six volunteers working with Tom on this project were John Callender, John Andrews, Dennis Morris, Glen Gustafson, Steve Roe and Paul Olszewski. You may remember that we collected contributions at the Fundraiser Dinner in May to cover the cost of the preservative used for this project. We thank all who donated to make this possible. As you are aware, this is a major expense that must be made to maintain the Historic Log Village for future generations!



Remember, if you or someone you know is interested in helping with the upkeep and maintenance of the Historic Log Village, record keeping of the artifacts or helping with the many chores necessary for keeping a museum, please contact one of our volunteer coordinators. There are many opportunities for someone who has time to share! Join the volunteers doing something you love, making new friends and having fun with other volunteers.

Volunteer opportunities

- Serve on the board or a committee
- Help with special events
- Be an attendant at the Historic Village
- Help with preservation of the buildings
- Help identify and catalog artifacts
- Help with Spring opening or Fall closing
- Help with grant writing
- Help with computer technology
- Help with social media

Volunteers are very important to the upkeep and day-to-day operation of the Historic Log Village. Please consider becoming a volunteer. Let us know where you can be of service!

***Call Marsha at 602-418-0440
or Linda at 218-692-5263.***

Thank you

A Note from the Historical Society Board President

As we close the Crosslake Historical Village for the 2019 season, we are grateful for another successful year of sharing our historic local history with an ever-increasing number of visitors. We are especially grateful to the many volunteers from the community. These volunteers have donated their time and energy on weekends to keep the Village and its buildings open and available for visitors to appreciate.

We look forward to another year of providing events and tours of historical interest for the community and visitors. Our schedule of events will include such events as a "Back Porch" series of presentations citing historical events of our local past, Artisans Heritage fair, house tours, our traditional Cider and Candlelight Tour and much more.

Many thanks to our Volunteer Board of Directors who with great dedication continue to meet monthly to plan for and preserve our "Treasured Historic Log Village"

Kate Williams, Board President

Crosslake Area Historical Society Board of Directors

President	Mary Kate Williams
Vice President	Priscilla Balmer
Treasurer	Dottie Anderson
Secretary	Kathy Brodin
Members	Linda Andrews
	Mary Dischinger
	Dodo Fraser
	Howard Hutchins
	Steve Roe
	Marsha Schoeb
	Tom White

Mission Statement: The Mission of the Crosslake Area Historical Society is to seek, collect, record, preserve and display historical artifacts and information pertaining to the Crosslake Minnesota area, to educate and ignite interest in our area's past.

Vision Statement: The vision of the Crosslake Area Historical Society is to continue to provide education and offer museum visitors a glimpse of the history of the Crosslake area, allowing them to experience first-hand how people lived and worked in the Crosslake area over time.

Our book, ***The Taste of History*** was based on a gathering of stories submitted by individuals who have ties to our area. A mailing list was developed in the early 2000s and requests were sent. The response was truly overwhelming and exceeded all expectations. Editor, Deanna Engen's dining room table was covered with submissions for the book. She sorted and compiled the information, stories and photos. It was quite an undertaking! Our dear friend, Bunny Geiger worked with her for countless hours typing and laying out some 576 pages of the book. It includes 610 historic photos. The book also includes many recipes provided by people because the original intent of the book was for it to be a recipe book. It turned into MUCH more!! The book includes transcripts of oral histories recorded as part of a WPA oral history project in 1936. The book finally went to press in 2004 and was available for purchase in July of that year.

This wonderful book documents the story of the formation of the Crosslake area and lets the people, themselves, tell their own stories of pioneer times for future generations. It is available for purchase at the Historic Log Village during the season and also at Judy's House of Gifts and Lakes Area Gallery. Consider adding this book to your home library!

